

K-295

Circa 1850

Miller's House at Davis Hill Mill

Near Galena

Private

Located on the north side of old Route 213 (pre 1950s), now called Davis Hill Road, the former miller's house stands on a hill just above the tail race and foundation of the last mill. Across the road is the old mill pond location, now dry. The two-storey, frame main house is quite small and plain, with one room on each side of a central, enclosed, straight stair. Its shallow gable roof with bold roof returns suggests Greek Revival influence and a building date in the middle nineteenth century. A rear wing may have been added about the turn of the century and a general remodeling conducted. This sort of house was probably typical of the kind of basic dwelling furnished the operator by the owner. Though at least some of the frame of the house appears to date from the middle nineteenth century, there is some evidence in the cellar that there was a former building on the site, though the evidence is not coherent. The county land records indicate that a mill operated at this location on Woodland Creek (or Mill Creek) since the eighteenth century. It was known by various names, some of which are Davis Hill Mill, Hurtt's Mill, Charles H. J. Sparks Mill, Gooding's Mill, Scott's Mill, and perhaps Comegys Mill, the last about the turn of the nineteenth century. The old mill building, along with machinery and stored grain, was reported to have burned in 1882. The remnant foundation near the house is from a new mill. This mill on Woodland Creek, just below the junction of its branches, was one of many in the county from the eighteenth into the twentieth century. They were a vital part of an agricultural economy. With few exceptions, the old mill-related buildings have vanished from the old mill sites. Though the races and part of the dam remain here, this house on what was once the main highway is the only reminder of the milling operation that was once located here.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Miller's House at Davis Hill Mill/ Scott's Mill: Little Dene (current)

2. Location

street & number North side Davis Hill Rd., 500 ft. south of Rt. 213, 1.8 miles
west of Galena not for publication

city, town Galena ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Meiklejohn

street & number R.D. 1, Box 200 telephone no.:

city, town Kennedyville state and zip code Maryland 21645

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 53

street & number Cross Street folio 245

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Unknown

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-295

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on the north side of old Route 213 (pre 1950s), now called Davis Hill Road, the former miller's house stands on a hill just above the tail race and foundation of the last mill. The simple, plain main section is two storeys tall, three bays wide, and appears to date from the mid nineteenth century with a later remodeling, about the turn of the twentieth century, when a two-storey, two-bay deep perpendicular wing may have been added to the rear, its east side flush with the main section's east end. Later a one-storey, shed-roofed wing was added within the L and extended beyond it, probably beginning as a porch. An east-side porch, outside the kitchen, has been removed. The main section roof is a shallow gable, with prominent gable-end roof returns. It indicates the influence of the Greek Revival style. The two-storey wing's roof appears almost flat but is really a very low shed, pitched up to the east. The main entry is in the central bay of the main section, into what was a small hall at the foot of the central, straight-run enclosed stair, with one room on each side. There is a chimney at the center of each end, within the wall. Main-section windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-295

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates Circa 1850-1860 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The house standing on the hill near the old Davis Hill mill site appears to have been for the miller, who from at least the middle of the nineteenth century until the mill ceased operations in the early twentieth century was not the mill owner. This sort of house was probably typical of the kind of basic, quite small dwelling furnished the operator by the owner. Though at least some of the frame of the house appears to date from the middle nineteenth century, there is some evidence in the cellar that there was a former building on the site, though the evidence is not coherent. The county land records indicate that a mill operated at this location on Woodland Creek (or Mill Creek) since the eighteenth century. It was known by various names, some of which are Davis Hill Mill, Hurtt's Mill, Charles H.J. Sparks Mill, Gooding's Mill, Scott's Mill, and perhaps Comegys Mill, the last about the turn of the nineteenth century. The old mill building, along with machinery and stored grain, was reported to have burned in 1882, but there is no mention of the house's being affected. The remnant foundation near the house is from a new mill. This mill on Woodland Creek, just below the junction of its branches, was one of many in the county from the eighteenth into the twentieth century. They were a vital part of an agricultural economy. With few exceptions, the old mill-related buildings have vanished from the old mill sites. Though the races and part of the dam remain here, this house on what was once the main highway is the only reminder of the milling operation that was once located here.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-295

Martha and Murray Zimiles, Early American Mills. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1973

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Zone Easting Northing

B

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Zone Easting Northing

C

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

D

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

E

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

F

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

G

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

H

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| name/title | Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant | | |
| organization | County Commissioners of Kent County | date | May 27, 1985 |
| | Historical Society of Kent County | | |
| | Courthouse | | 778-4600 |
| street & number | Cross Street | telephone | 778-3499 |
| city or town | Chestertown | state | Maryland |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

The main section is about 32 feet wide by 16 feet deep.

The exterior walls of the main section and main wing are covered with horizontal, lapped weather board with c. 5" exposure. There are double corner boards on the main section.

There is a cellar under the main section with walls partly brick and partly fieldstone. However, the cellar is not deep at both ends, where the chimney bases are. The front and rear wall show changes or repair work, and possibly use of old large bricks. The evidence is not clear as to what has happened here. It is now entered under the main stair. The joists are sawn, showing up-and-down-saw marks. The owners, who resurfaced the dining room (west room) walls, said that studs were heavy (3" x 4" or 4" x 4") and were upwardly braced at the corners, with all joints mortised and tenoned. The larger wing is built over a crawl space, as is the later, one-storey wing.

Quite low chimneys are at each end of the main section, at the center within the wall. Both are built of brick but are heavily parged. The west chimney has a two-course cap. The east chimney cap appears to be mostly missing. The chimney at the rear of the two-storey wing has been removed above the roof line. It is within the wall and built of brick, square for use with a stove. The fireplace in the east room until the present owners came was plastered over. They opened it and rebuilt it.

The main section roof is now of corrugated metal. The two-storey wing has a built-up composition roof. There is a built-in gutter at the lower side. The low wing has a standing-seam metal roof. The main section has a boxed cornice with a cyma recta crown. There is a bed of a plain board and a skewed astragal below (c. 2-1/2"). There is a broad frieze that also returns with the cornice, but only for about 9" around the corner. The returns are very bold, about 2-2 to 1/2 feet. The roof overhangs the walls all around by about 12". The two-storey wing has a plain boxed cornice on the west side. Because of the built-in gutter on the east side, the roof appears to be kicked there. The roof is flush with the wall on the north end, where there is a heavy frieze over the top course of weatherboard. On the east side double frieze boards are fitted under the return of the main section. The wing roof is entirely below the cornice level of the main section.

The main entry in the central bay of the south side has a replacement metal door. A one-light door was removed, perhaps dating from the turn of the century (or later) remodeling. A date was found incised in the plaster of the rear wing, indicating building or changes at that time: 1902. A remnant of the early architrave remains: a three-light transom that is narrower than the present door. Secondary entries are into the one-storey wing's west side and into the two-storey wing's east side, in its south bay, where the present owners installed a new door to replace the former paneled one.

Exterior main-section window trim is quite narrow, 1-1/2" overall, with 3/4" inside bead included. There were no shutters present when the present owners came, but hinge mortises do remain. There are now fixed plastic louvered shutters.

(continued)

The three-bay front porch appears Victorian. It has posts with stop-chamfered edges. There are scroll-type sawn brackets at the posts, now only at the corner posts. The two central posts are replacements. Weatherboard now covers end and front "dentil" cornice trim, on the front beam boxing and ends. The roof is shed with standing seam metal roof. The porch was said to have once been enclosed.

The east room fireplace now has the chimney brick exposed; the present owners removed the plaster. The bricks measure about 8-1/2" x 2-5/8" x 4-3/8". There is a flat arch of splayed headers. The opening is rectangular. The hearth is new and raised, two bricks high. There had been a brick hearth flush with the floor. The outer measurements are 48" wide x 25-1/2" deep. The opening is c. 32" wide.

The floors are now double, narrow tongue-and-groove pine being the top layer. Medium random flooring was seen from the cellar as the bottom layer. Wall finishes are plaster and sheet rock. A probably original door at the head of the stair has four panels. They are recessed and slightly raised, with no panel molding.

According to Julian Hurtt of Georgetown, the mill ceased operations about 1912 or 1913, about the time many mills closed because of dam breakage, changes in grain marketing, and because it simply became uneconomic. His parents, James Woodland Hurtt and Bessie W. Hurtt, received the mill in 1902 from Andrew Woodall, her grandfather, who bought it in 1893 after Charles H. J. Sparks defaulted on his mortgage. Woodland Hurtt supervised the mill operation until his death at an early age in 1904. A March 21, 1903 Chestertown Transcript advertisement of Woodland Hurtt stated that since his opening he has been pleased with his success and will continue to try to please. Flour, meal, chops, slip-stuff and bran were prepared. Perhaps the mill had not operated since the 1882 fire, but that seems unlikely. Rather it appears that the reason Sparks mortgaged himself to Woodall (after the fire and well after his assumption of ownership of the mill) was to rebuild the mill.

The 1877 atlas map of the Second District carries an advertisement under the Kennedyville business references, which is not quite accurate, though it does state that the mill was near Locust Grove. The ad states B. F. J. Sparks to be the proprietor of the mill. "Best Grades of Family Flour manufactured and kept on hand for sale at all times, also Corn Meal and Buckwheat Flour. Custom work solicited. Highest cash price paid for Wheat at all times."

An 1809 deed (BC 6/1), by which Cornelius Comegys, merchant, sold a mill to James Wilmer, "Handy craftsman," states that the mill was once part of the tract called "Colchester or Reversion." The reference probably is to Colchester, sometimes written Tolchester, which is the large tract northwest of Galena from which the town of Georgetown was created. There still is a Colchester Farm (K-149), part of the original tract. It is questionable whether this mill was ever part of Colchester as it seems too far away for even a tract of 1,000 acres. Perhaps there was earlier confusion with deeds and the reference is to a possible mill site on what was earlier called Broad Oak Creek, now Dyer Creek to the west of Colchester Farm. The physical appearance even today of the area to the north of Rt. 213 looks as if a mill pond could have been there, and an old millstone was found on Colchester Farm.

J. H. THOMAS, Collector and Real Estate Agent.
J. W. JARMAN, Proprietor of Millington Merchant Mills. Manufacturer of Finest Brands of Flour, Meal, &c.
J. JOHNSON, Dealer in the Finest and Purest Liquors and Wines now handled. He can also serve you with a first-class dish of Oysters, gotten up in any style.
F. J. McWHORTER, Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, &c.
JAMES A. EDWARDS, Carriage-maker. Is skillful in his Profession. Those desiring work in his line will do well to call and examine his work before purchasing elsewhere.
J. H. HURT, Jr., Dealer in Grain, Coal, Lime, Fertilizers and Farming Implements.
FRANK H. GREENWOOD, Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Queensware, Hardware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Groceries, Provisions, Flour, Grain and Feed. Cash paid for Crossies.
SAMUEL D. WEBB, Dealer in Hard and Soft Wood Lumber, Peach-Crates, &c.

C. P. LOPER, Blacksmith and Carriage-maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done at reasonable rates.

HENRY TONKIN, Principal of Millington Academy.

Dr. E. G. CLARK, Physician.

JOHN W. HYRONS, Manager of Millington Saw Mills. Keeps on hand Hard and Soft Lumber for sale.

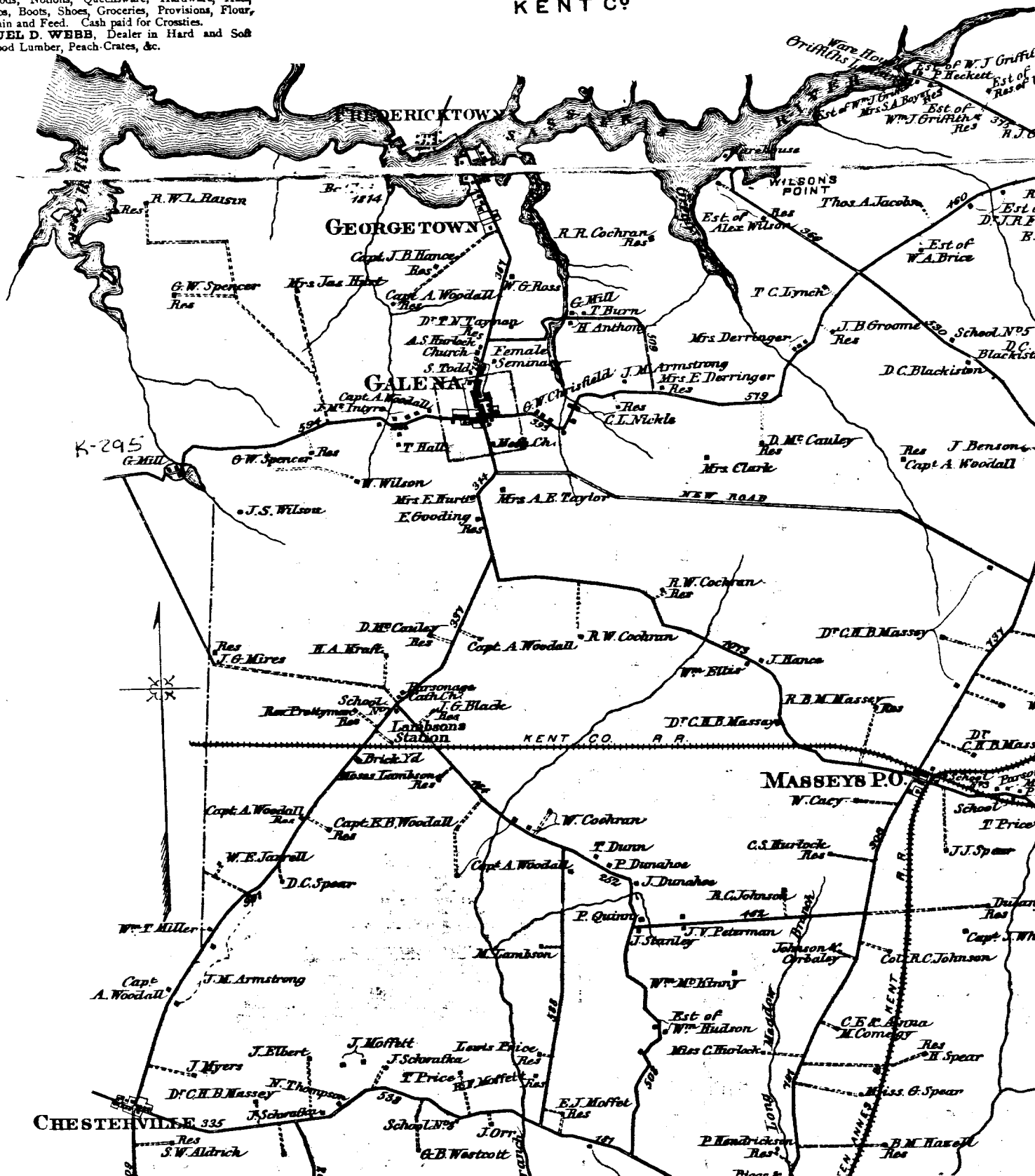
Mrs. M. E. TURBIT, Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Drugs, Stationery, &c., &c.

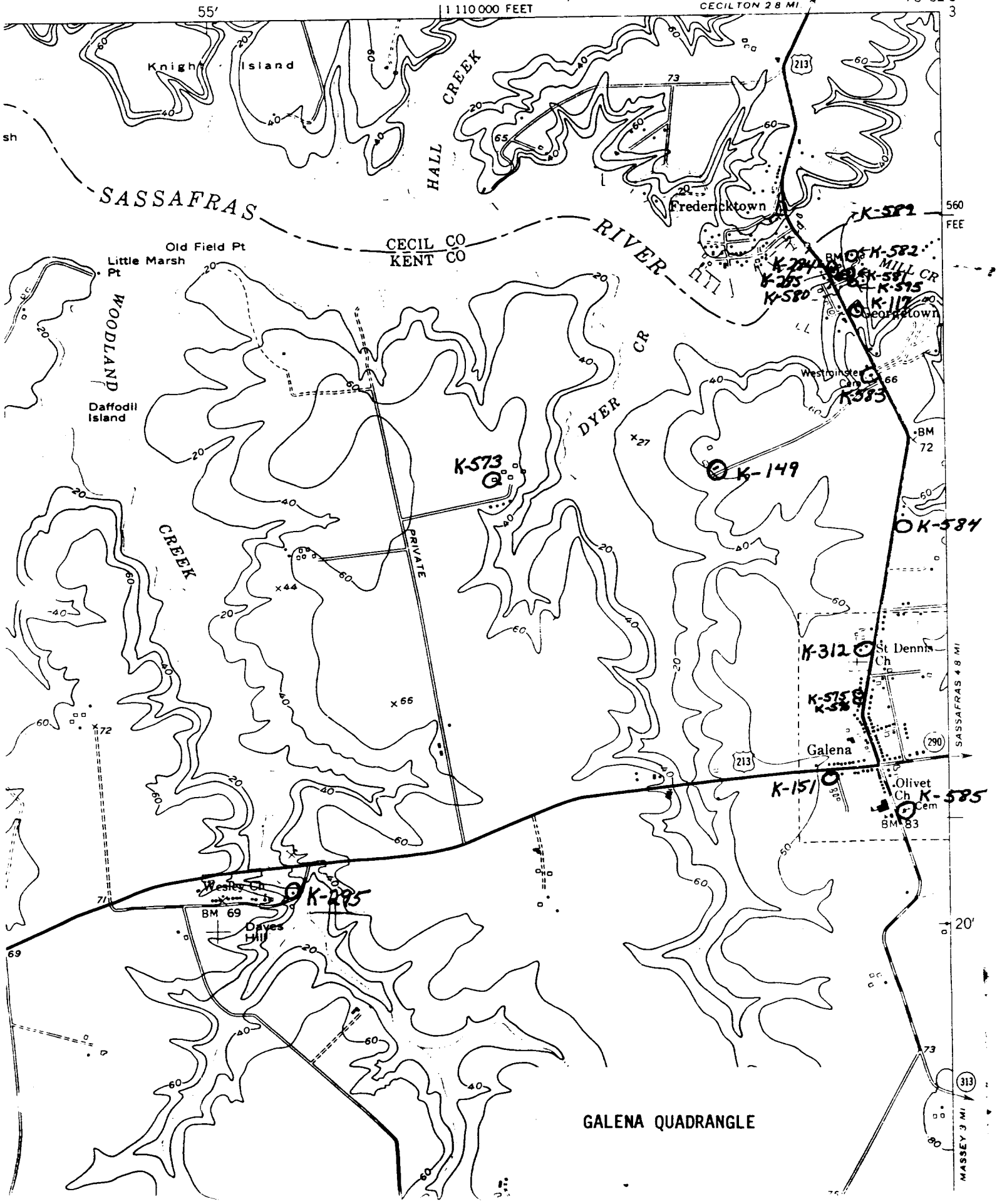
T. H. CRANE, Physician and Surgeon. Office and
Res., Millington.
JOHN BOTTOMLY, Butcher. Fresh Meats con-
stantly on hand.
W. S. GREEN, Tinner, and Dealer in Tinware and
Stoves of the latest and best Patterns.
JAMES L. WILLIS, Proprietor of Millington Hot-
tel. Best Accommodations for Man and Horse.
Travelers transferred to any part of Kent, Queen
Anne Counties and south part of Delaware.

HENRY PARR, 1
dles, Harness, Wh
JOHN C. JONES,
Boots, Shoes, Gro
in a first class S
small profits."
W. H. PENNING
ton Hotel."
R. E. KNIGHTON
Ironware, Stove
Keeps constantly
and sells at City F
THOMAS H. HO
Notions, Gents'
Merchandise.

MILLINGTON

KENT C9





GALENA QUADRANGLE



K-295

Davis Hill Miller's House

Davis Hill Rd., near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/27/85

View to northwest

K295-1A



K-295

Davis Hill Miller's House

Davis Hill Rd., near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/27/85

View to southeast

K295-84